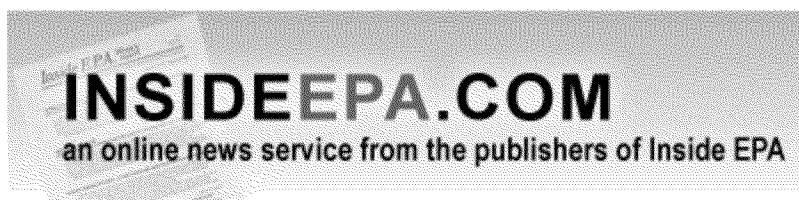


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**From:** Turley, Jennifer  
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## Pesticides & Toxic Substances Law News for April 4, 2014

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#### CHEMICALS:

## Panel approves Manchin bill to tighten storage facility rules

Jessica Estepa, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, April 3, 2014

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee today easily passed legislation aimed at tightening regulations for chemical storage facilities.

Sen. Joe Manchin's [S. 1961](#) -- along with six other bills and an Army Corps of Engineers study resolution -- was amended and approved by voice vote. The West Virginia Democrat introduced the measure following January's chemical spill in his home state, which left 300,000 people without tap water for days.

"It's something we all took for granted," Manchin said following the bill's approval.

EPW Chairwoman Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) offered an amendment to the legislation to address concerns from both sides of the aisle. The changes include clarifying which chemical storage tanks would be subject to the law, establishing criteria that would allow states to make exclusions and adding annual inspections for high-hazard tanks.

Other changes would allow states to opt out of implementing the program and clarified that the federal law would not interfere with state programs. Further, they would ensure that emergency response plans are consistent with existing contingency plans under the Clean Water Act.

Another amendment added a provision to authorize \$20 million in grants to be doled out to states that carry out the protection programs.

Boxer emphasized that these changes were made through a bipartisan effort.

"It doesn't do everything I want to do; it does not do everything Sen. [David] Vitter [R-La.] wants to do," she said. "But it is a compromise ... and I urge support for that compromise."

The committee will likely begin working with Senate leaders to bring the bill to the floor after the Easter recess.

The other bills approved today by the committee are:

- [S. 224](#), from Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), which would authorize the U.S. EPA administrator to provide funding to state and local agencies and other groups for restoration projects in the San Francisco Bay.
- [S. 491](#), originally sponsored by the late Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) and being pushed forward by a coalition of bipartisan senators, which would reauthorize EPA's Brownfields program.
- [S. 1934](#), from Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), which would convey land and a building to Teton County, Wyo.
- [S. 2042](#), from Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), which would reauthorize the National Estuary Program.
- [S. 2055](#), from Sen. John Boozman (R-Mont.), which would allow the secretary of the Army to authorize non-federal entities to collect user fees for projects worked on jointly with the Army Corps of Engineers.
- [S. 2080](#), from Sens. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), which would protect U.S. fish habitat.

The committee also approved an Army Corps of Engineers study resolution on Point Judith, R.I.

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